

ACORN



The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

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SPRING 1978

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario R Newsletter

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief:	Marion Walker Garland, 86 Augusta St., Port Hope, Ont.
Editors:	M. W. G., Port Hope Donna Baker, Toronto Daniel O'Brien, Hamilton-Niagara Lucille Douglas, Heritage Cambridge Donald Pettitt, Brant County Susan Wilson, London Region Nicholas Hill, Huron County
Contributing Editor:	Peter John Stokes

The Cover

THE ELORA GORGE
(see President's Report)

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The Globe and Mail hit the nail squarely on the head, when in its January 4, 1978 edition it wrote that the Don Jail is only a building and had committed no crimes. "The historians will decide if it is worth preserving as a piece of architecture representative of a certain period, as a place where our society demonstrated the sort of punitive approach to criminals which is supposed to be out of fashion these days."

Certainly horrendous crimes were perpetrated in the Tower of London, and it still stands. It is one of the greatest attractions in London today. The two structures are hardly comparable, and we are not suggesting that the Don Jail become a tourist attraction. However, no building should take the blame for whatever went on inside it.

To quote F.H. Armstrong, Ontario Historical Society, in a recent letter to the Editor, Globe and Mail, regarding the Don Jail, "if we are going to preserve only those structures that give evidence of the more happy aspects of our past, we are going to end up with very little idea of what our past was really like. The arguments presented for demolition so far have been based on emotion rather than any rational reasons; this is the last way we should go about making decisions on either preserving, or demolishing historical buildings."

Further to our question asked at the annual general meeting regarding names of streets and areas, we have received an interesting booklet, Principles of Geographical Naming, from Michael B. Smart, Executive Secretary of the Ontario Geographic Names Board. The province's first Toponymist was appointed in 1967, the Executive Secretary in 1970, and the Board attained operational status in 1971. If you are interested in receiving this booklet, write to the Ontario Geographic Names Board, Surveys and Mapping Branch, Ministry of National Resources, Room 6606, Whitney Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont. M7A 1W3

M.W.G.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

29 December, 1977

Presentation to the Ontario Municipal Board Hearing re. Bridge over Elora Gorge

My name is Peter John Stokes. I appear today as President of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, a province-wide organization dedicated for over forty years to the protection of buildings of historic and architectural interest and to the preservation of places of natural beauty.

To be brief here is a summary of our concerns. First there is no question that the Elora Gorge is a place of unparalleled natural beauty: therefore the ACO is concerned. The proposal for a bridge across the Elora Gorge, from evidence presented and reported, is stated to have minimal impact on the environment: this is neither a true nor a complete statement and not a proper interpretation of the facts. Biologically, chemically, even ecologically possibly this is a reasonable surmise. However visually the proposal has devastating impact, so crucial to this place of natural beauty as to destroy it forever. The proposal is not only destructive, but also irreversible.

Secondly, is vision not part of the human experience for most of us? Would anyone here not be concerned if eyes could not be used to see? (What we need perhaps is more training in how to use them, but that is one of my constant problems, as an architect and a preservationist.)

Thirdly other alternatives to the proposal exist: a very likely possibility appealed to me on site examination.

Therefore it is essential to preserve that place of natural beauty, the Elora Gorge, for Ontario and to locate human improvement elsewhere.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter John Stokes,
President,
The Architectural Conservancy
of Ontario

The Elora Gorge Bridge Question

As the tenth day (29 December, 1977) of the Ontario Municipal Board hearing unfolded before Chairman H. H. Lancaster and member Willis Blair, even more disquieting evidence came to light. Paul Eagles, working on a series of studies and reports for Ontario counties and regions outlining environmentally sensitive areas (ESA's), stated that the Elora Gorge fulfilled six out of nine possible criteria set up to pinpoint ESA's across the province. It was in fact an area which

would be extremely adversely affected by improvements such as the road and bridge being considered.

But by far the most devastating news came from Dr. John Andresen, an urban forester from the University of Toronto, who has been carrying out studies and surveys on the destruction of roadside vegetation by applications of winter salt. (You have no doubt watched the withering of evergreens and stunting of other shrubs and plants and current experiments to reduce road salting in the Niagara area for instance, to test the possibility of cutting down the destruction). Dr. Andresen noted that the cover of cedar literally clung for dear life to a very thin topsoil layer built up for centuries over the rock. These trees have a hard enough time in dry weather. The eastern white cedar is particularly susceptible to salt aerosols (mists laden with salt-polluted water droplets created by the swirling air currents following fast moving vehicles, particularly trucks). Protective devices planned for the bridge sides would be ineffective. Wind-blown spray could affect the trees to a range of five hundred feet on either side of the road, a potential swath of dead trees over a thousand feet wide on the top of the gorge along the road! It would have to be rechristened Bald Point where the Irvine and Grand Rivers meet, a very dismal prospect, as you can imagine from the illustration on this month's cover. Moreover, a wind along the gorge could carry the salt spray one thousand feet to kill those cedars clinging to the walls of the Gorge plus the very sensitive lichens and mosses of its vegetation so essential to its appearance and ecology. Murder indeed!

The latest evidence is definitely against locating the bridge over the Gorge. Even previously it was apparent that other locations for the road and bridge had not been fully considered or had been discarded without taking into account the devastating effect of the proposal on the life and appearance of the Elora Gorge. The reference to one alternative mentioned in your President's presentation to the OMB should be enlarged upon. One excellent opportunity exists for developing another route with minimum disruption, avoiding the Gorge altogether, and providing other opportunities not available on the proposed alignment. This route was explored along its southern extension and across the river partly northwards. The alignment follows Nichol Township Road 6 which starts at a short cross road joining the Elora road (Wellington County Road 7) and High-

way 6 between Guelph and Fergus. (By a short extension this could be taken southwards to connect directly with Highway 6 about 2 km. north of the intersection with Victoria Road, serving as an important artery through Guelph's east end to the back of the University.) For the first few miles relatively little development occurs; access is mainly from cross roads. As it approaches the Grand River, the road sails over a cutting through which the CN railway passes facilitating grade separation naturally, then drops towards the valley. Should the bridge be kept high enough it can oversail the road along the south bank to an overpass to the main Fergus-Elora road on the north side thus providing for a modified interchange quite simply. This would expedite traffic movement at this crucial intersection. The road, by the slight swing east, will eventually connect with the north-south road roughly half way between Fergus and Elora to avoid all major built-up areas and across the CP line at a cutting. This road is relatively handy to Wellington Place, the County Museum housed in the former House of Industry. Continuation northwards can use existing road allowances. No, this route will not be entirely without disruption either: some properties already developed would be affected and some tree growth would be damaged if salting were practised on a conventional open bridge deck. Perhaps local people can voice a stronger protest in this case, than our defenceless cedar trees. Perhaps a version of the covered bridge would answer the purpose. We are not proud so long as the bridge is constructed away from the Elora Gorge and solves the problems of Central Wellington County and its communities.

Peter John Stokes

THE DON JAIL

It would seem that studies of the old Don Jail are now going ahead looking towards its preservation and adaptation to other useful purposes. This is happening, it would appear, as a result of public support for this sensible course of action. Controversy has raged often hot and heavy in the press by bringing forward examples indicating that successful conversion has been achieved in like buildings such as the Sports Centre from Abingdon, England Old Goal. But there have been qualms from time to time from the suggestion of the front masquerading disenchanting in downtown Toronto (rather like the eyeless mask of the Normal School behind Ryerson's modern façade), to the strange wrecking exhibition held on New Year's Day.

On 30 November, 1977, your President wrote to the Premier requesting a sensible approach to the study of the Don Jail's treatment seeking a reply. So far neither acknowledgement nor answer has been received.

Marion Bryden, MPP for Beaches-Woodbine, writing in support of the Conservancy's stand on the need for study of the Don Jail preservation, drew to the President's attention that in a 1977 exemption order from the Environmental Assessment Act for the new Metro Toronto South Detention Centre in Etobicoke it is noted — "This Order does not exempt the demolition or any proposed change in use of the Toronto Jail buildings from the applicable requirements, if any, of the Environmental Assessment Act." Which means? We must investigate further.

PJS

The REVISED Guidelines on the Designation of Heritage Conservation Districts

This booklet provides the essential guidelines to preservation activity under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act. It is an interesting and informative publication and describes a heritage conservation district, the means of designating such a district, implementation procedures, financial assistance and Provincial Advisory service available. Several appendices are included describing more thoroughly the procedural steps in designation comprising the Official Plan Statement necessary, the By-law of Intent, the requisite Conservation District Study and Plan concluding with the Designating By-law. The booklet concludes by adding a very useful outline of other, and complementary, means available to heritage district conservation.

The Guidelines are concise and complete, but have to be read very carefully and often re-read. But, as with the powers under the Ontario Heritage Act, it is not obligatory, but permitted: it falls back on the community and its citizens to take advantage of the procedures for their own benefit, to make conservation work for their particular situation. Which, as we have noted before, is the glorious world of opportunity which only we can explore, not a world of haves against have-nots but "as them that want, and them that don't".

Under "What is a Heritage Conservation District?" the characteristics, size and future of a district are briefly but fully stated as a guide to evaluating areas for demarcation. Various criteria might be applied to suit each and every situation giving rise to the consideration of such diverse areas as the old Town of Niagara (where

only a tiny section, namely part of the main commercial street is currently being studied), the short section of London's Ridout Street, the hamlet of Sparta, West Mill Street in Elora, and the village of Bayfield in Huron County (where the process is well underway). Industrial sections are mentioned too, but consistency such as the mill towns of the English scene is less common in Ontario. The idea that a district might be created around buildings already designated to help preserve their setting is another concept. The vital quality of the Heritage Conservation District is that it can control, so far as we can understand, all exteriors, thus preventing, essentially, compromise and, in extreme cases, mutilation of the accompanying building background. Furthermore such designation can foster preservation and restoration.

With the outline of procedures noted in Designating a Heritage Conservation District the necessary steps are made clearer and more explicit; this is essential for thorough understanding of this complex process and the role of groups and official bodies it may involve. Because of the planning implications in the creation of a Heritage Conservation District, this part of the process involves the Official Plan and the Ministry of Housing, specifically to cast this as an instrument of the community's planning. This, after the Official Plan or Official Plan Amendment, merely a simple statement in effect, includes the Heritage Conservation District, is under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation during the two intermediate stages of the by-law of Intent and policy implementation in the development of a Heritage Conservation District Plan. Then the succeeding By-law of implementation must be approved by the Ontario Municipal Board.

When the Heritage Conservation District is finally in effect the working methods to achieve conservation, preservation and restoration include the usual provisions regarding alterations and demolitions where applications come before the municipal council for its review. New construction comes under similar examination. The procedures provide for control by easements, through the municipality or the Ontario Heritage Foundation. The mention of financial incentives points to the possibilities, but as previously, makes no commitment in this regard. However, reference is made to the appendix on complementary assistance programmes.

Finally the offer is made of assistance by the Ontario Heritage Foundation in the preparation and implementation of a Heritage Conservation District Plan (application to be made to the Chair-

man) and further help in exploring all possibilities of the Ontario Heritage Act (enquiries to the Heritage Administration Branch).

The booklet makes good reading, particularly the appendices. It is quite obvious that conservation is not paramount in the public's mind, that the process is a cautious one, carefully thought out and left to the citizens and communities of Ontario to conjure with. Nevertheless the procedures are daunting and obviously great effort, if not expense, is involved, and a great deal of promotion to enlist the public's, and thus the community's, support.

Booklet available from:

Ontario Government Bookstore
880 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y7

or The Publications Centre
Ministry of Government Services
3 B-7 Macdonald Block
Queen's Park, Ontario M7A 1N8

Price: \$1.00

Thank you, Mr. Otto, for your letters of explanation and the enclosure of the revised Guidelines on the Designation of Heritage Conservation Districts. Even if the revised version removes the crease, we think it is still rather a sticky wicket.

PJS

(See Nov. 15, 1977, letter on page 24)

THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT

While it is acknowledged that the Ontario Heritage Act represents a major step forward in preservation legislation, there is need for strengthening the legislation in a variety of ways. As a result of the Conference on Heritage Legislation in Ontario held by the Ontario Historical Society in September, 1977, fourteen resolutions were drawn up. We feel these should be read by all conservationists. If you approve of some, or all of them, write to the Hon. Robert Welch, Minister of Culture and Recreation, 6th Floor, 77 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Ont. M7A 2R9, and Dr. Gerald Killan, Ontario Historical Society, c/o King's College, 266 Epworth Ave., London, Ont. N6A 2M3. The more groups and individuals that support the resolutions the better.

The resolutions are as follows:

1. That the Ontario Heritage Act be amended to provide for designation of outstanding heritage properties by the province through the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

2. That the Provincial Government extend the authority of Municipal Councils to designate properties under the OHA to include properties, buildings, or structures owned by the Province and/or any of its agencies or crown corporations; and that the Provincial Government approach the Federal Government in negotiations to extend similar powers with respect to heritage properties owned by the Federal Government, its agencies and crown corporations.
3. That a system be established under which heritage properties, buildings, or structures can be designated in areas that are unable or unwilling to establish Local Architectural Advisory Committees.
4. That the Ontario Heritage Act be amended to incorporate the principle of permanent demolition control.
5. That the OHA be amended to extend the time period for temporary demolition control.
6. Considering that the statute of no other Canadian jurisdiction imposes as many formal preconditions upon the creation of heritage conservation areas as does the OHA, that the procedures for designating Heritage Conservation Districts be simplified.
7. That the requirements to advertise under sections 29, 31, 32 and 34 be amended with a view to simplifying the procedures and reducing the costs of designation to the municipalities.
8. That the Province of Ontario provide a system of funding to reimburse municipalities in part or in whole for any grants made for preserving and maintaining privately owned heritage properties.
9. That the Province of Ontario provide tax relief for owners of designated heritage properties as compensation for the costs of renovating and maintaining these properties.
10. That the Province of Ontario review its home and residential programmes such as RRAP (Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Programme) and OHRP (Ontario Home Renewal Programme) with a view of providing tax incentives for preserving authentic architectural values and tax disincentives to discourage demolition of the same.
11. Since the property of the Ontario Heritage Foundation is exempt from taxation, that the province of Ontario provide municipalities where the Foundation owns property, grants in lieu of taxes equal to taxes that would normally be assessed. Such grants to be placed in a heritage budget thereby increasing the municipality's ability and willingness to support conservation.
12. Considering the widespread lack of understanding and distrust of the effects of designation, that the Ministry of Culture and Recreation undertake a more aggressive and varied publicity campaign to explain the intent and benefits of Ontario's heritage conservation legislation.
13. That the Ministry of Culture and Recreation provide more technical staff in the regional offices to improve the liaison with LACAC's, to advise them on problems that may arise, and to negotiate with municipalities that do not have LACAC's.
14. That the Ontario Heritage Act be amended to provide for the preservation, maintenance, and management of properties of outstanding natural significance.

M.W.G.

NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST

From the Branches

PORT HOPE

A costume ball was held in Osler Hall, Trinity College School, on December 17. It was the Conservancy's contribution to the town's Olde Tyme Christmas. About fifty-five couples danced to Hal McFarlane's orchestra from Peterborough. Supper was served at eleven o'clock, and dancing went on until after one o'clock.

Amendments to Ontario Heritage Act

On January 8, the executive voted to accept the fourteen resolutions suggesting amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act. These resolutions resulted from the Ontario Historical Society's Conference on Heritage Legislation in Ontario, September 24, 1977. Letters to this effect were sent to the Hon. Robert Welch, Minister of Cul-

ture and Recreation, and Dr. Gerald Killan, Chairman, Local Societies Committee, Ontario Historical Society.

Notice of Historical Designation

Notice of the intending designation of St. Mark's Church by the Municipal Council of Port Hope appeared in the local newspaper. The reasons for designation were as follows: The building is a priceless connection with the early history and settlers of Port Hope, resulting in an important tourist attraction to this area. The Royal Family used this local church as a place of worship and left an autographed book that is on permanent display. Canada's first native Governor-General, Vincent Massey, and his family are buried in the adjacent cemetery. The building is one of the oldest church buildings in continuous use in the Province of Ontario.

LACAC Appointed

The new LACAC appointed by the Port Hope Council has nine members, four of which are members of the executive of the Port Hope Branch: Marion Garland, Chairman, Anita Blackwood, Secretary, Pierre St. Laurent, and Susan Thomas.

Spring tour

The Branch's spring house tour, May 6, should prove interesting to those who have been on other Port Hope tours and to those for whom it will be a first. The different architectural styles will be featured, showing centennial as well as new houses, also older buildings with later additions. The gardens should be beautiful. For tickets and information write to Mrs. Marnie de Kerckhove Varent, 8 King St., Port Hope. Tickets will be on sale on the day of the tour at the Chamber of Commerce, Walton St., (the main street), by the river. All tickets \$5.00 including senior citizens.

TORONTO BRANCH

Churches: Change and Conservation was the title of a two part programme which was presented at the December and January meetings of the Toronto Region Branch A.C.O.

The first meeting focussed attention on the challenges which now threaten the survival of many heritage church buildings in Ontario. It commenced with an enjoyable 'hors d'oeuvre' of some of these buildings with slides and commentary by Mr. Anthony Adamson. The following meeting provided a positive and constructive balance with a review of architectural solutions

showing how some challenges at least are being met and opportunities grasped.

The challenges to church buildings are from within and without.

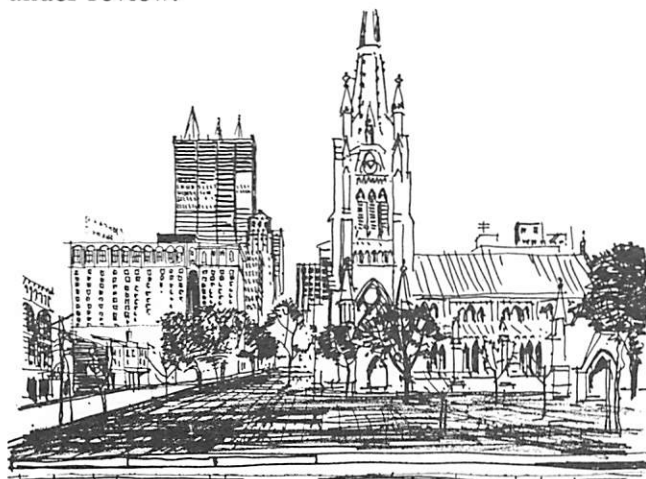
It is 1600 years since the first buildings of specifically ecclesiastical intent were built by Christians. These early structures in Palestine were the forerunners of the many thousands which followed Constantine's proclamation of toleration in 313. Since that time churches have been used almost exclusively, until recent years, as places for worship, but today the boundaries between the sacred and secular are disappearing. Emphasis on service to the larger community is now placing new demands on existing construction which obviously was not designed to meet contemporary desires for flexibility in the use of interior space.

How well Canada's 15,000 religious buildings can adapt in order to accommodate diverse community activities, in addition to liturgical requirements, will determine to a considerable degree whether or not in future they will be considered a blessing or a handicap by their owners and users.

One of the panelists at the first meeting, Rev. Albion Wright of the United Church Mission in Canada, spoke from his experience as a representative of an owner in this regard. He, and Mr. Douglas Flanders, author of a Masters thesis on 'The Redundancy of Church Properties' also referred to another challenge from 'within', namely, church union. In London, Ontario, for example, 27 congregations in 1914 had become 19 by 1974.

They also confirmed that the challenges from without are no less strong. Considerable effort and money is required to keep substantial edifices in good repair and to protect them from the assaults of time and weather. Diminishing congregations resulting from demographic and other changes, particularly in downtown areas, make maintenance operating costs an increasing burden for those who remain. Equally strong are the pressures from the development industry on poorer churches which are sitting on large-sized parcels of high-priced and highly desired real estate in the central districts of our cities. The audience learned that some financial relief may be forthcoming from the Government of Ontario. Mr. W. R. Rodgers of the Heritage Administration Branch, Ministry of Culture and Recreation outlined the criteria contained in the new church funding legislation — the building must be used for religious purposes and be a designated heritage property; additionally, the government will ask for an easement before it will allocate funds.

The source of the money is Wintario, not Ontario Housing Foundation — a point of some concern expressed by several present who felt that this would seriously limit its acceptability for a number of congregations. In this event it could well prove to be an unfortunate impediment to a conservation programme of this nature. Nevertheless, members were told that at the present time approximately fifty applications are under review.



ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL, TORONTO
architects: Cumberland and Ridout

'Considerable effort and money is required to keep substantial edifices in good repair'.

Three Toronto architects at the January meeting illustrated the potential of church buildings for new uses when they have outlived their original purpose. Ronald Thom discussed his proposals for the Toronto Dance Theatre (formerly St. Enoch's, Don Vale) and John A. H. Vanstone described his design for the Chinese Community Centre (formerly Church of Christ (Disciples) on Cecil Street.

In contrast, Rudolph Javosky's presentation showed how two existing structures had been re-designed for continuing church use following major fires. His proposal for the Church of the Messiah, Avenue Road, incorporates the original outer shell but envisages a radically changed interior to meet new liturgical and community requirements.

Appropriately, the meetings were held in two churches, namely, historic St. Stephen's in the Fields (1858, architect Thomas Fuller; rebuilt after fire in 1865, Gundry C Langley, architects) and the Greek Revival Church of Christ, Scientist (1916, architect S. S. Beman). Both churches are listed by the Toronto Historical Board and the Toronto Region Branch A.C.O. is grateful to their congregations for their hospitality and for the

opportunity to meet in such architecturally rewarding surroundings.

Howard V. Walker,
Programme Chairman,
Toronto Region Branch A.C.O.

HAMILTON-NIAGARA

Designation of Central Public School

The unveiling of a commemorative plaque took place on Friday, November 25. The plaque mentions that the Central Public School was opened in 1853 and was the largest graded school in Upper Canada. Egerton Ryerson, the province's chief superintendant of education from 1844-1876 was also mentioned.

Those taking part in the ceremony were chairman Ken Shoesmith, Dr. H. Paikin, Chairman of the Board of Education, Mrs. E. Catherine Smale, Ontario Heritage Foundation, Mr. Wm. McCulloch, Hamilton Historic Board, Mrs. Muriel Beatty, Heritage Hamilton Foundation, and Mr. R. N. Allan, Vice-President ACO Hamilton- Niagara.

Sandyford Place

The work on Sandyford Place proceeds slowly. The roof is renewed, the front porches, rear additions, and garages are gone, and the stonework on the facade has been restored.

Ryerson School

The Board of Education voted to demolish old Ryerson School (1889). This school, by enabling Central students to transfer there, allowed Central to be renovated in 1890 instead of being demolished as was being proposed in the 1880's. Occupying a prime site on Queen Street, Ryerson has been vacant for a few years, and since there is no evident use for the building it will be demolished early in the new year.

HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE

Downtown Revitalization

Heritage Cambridge is heartened by the efforts now being made to revitalize the central downtown area. Measures to attract and accommodate growth without losing the remaining old stone buildings are being considered by the City Council. A study prepared by Barton Myers outlines ways to retain the atmosphere and character of the city core and still encourage development. We have been preaching this possibility for years.



Bus Tours

Early in November Heritage Cambridge arranged a most successful conducted bus tour following the routine of our "Historic Driving Tour of Cambridge". After the tour, members enjoyed tea and pastries at the Bouquet Garni. This restaurant is housed in a fine old building, once a button factory, which has recently been converted and restored. The tour was so popular that we have had requests for a repeat performance.

Another bus tour, still in the planning stage, is rather more ambitious. It is a tour to Savannah, Georgia, during "Garden Week" in April. If all goes as planned, members will stay in some of the older buildings in that delightful area, and have at least one conducted tour of the city. Though quite a few people have indicated an interest, our quota has not been reached yet. We trust all can be arranged soon.

December Meeting

At our meeting in the Cambridge City Hall's historic Council Chamber, Bob Rowell, one of our members, and a member of the Waterloo Historical Society, showed a fascinating selection of slides depicting the architecture of southern Ontario from the 1700's to the present. His comments were most enlightening. On display at the meeting was one of the original copies of the Pollock Map of Galt of 1867. It is now the property of Fred Gaskin, who brought it to the meeting. Ontario Archives are anxious to secure the map, and have offered to restore it, though it seems in remarkably good condition. Also on display was a very interesting book of old photographs of Ayr and district, brought by Dr. Duff Wilson. Sherry and Christmas cake put us in a festive mood at this last meeting of the year.

LACAC News

The Cambridge LACAC has not been in force very long, but it has brought about the designation of several local buildings, including our City Hall. The most recent ones have been recommended for designation at the request of the owners. They are the Sheaves Tower in Blair, and the Otto Klotz house in Preston. The Sheaves Tower was built in 1876 to provide auxiliary water for Blair Mills. The original building has disappeared, but this tower still stands in the woods beside the stream. It is a favorite subject for artists and photographers. The tower is recognized as one of the world's smallest hydro pro-

jects. The Otto Klotz house was built in 1839. It was used as a school, and it is thought to have been the first free school in Upper Canada, though verification of this is still being sought.

The Preston Public School, for which we, and others, have fought such a long battle, was designated by the City Council on December 12th. At present, the Board of Education, which wants to tear down the building, is seeking to have the designation rescinded. So the struggle continues.

OLD GALT POST OFFICE

The old Galt Post Office at 12½ Water Street was built in 1885, and the inscription can still be read over a window. The Federal Government Customs Department moved into it in 1939, when a new Post Office was completed further up the street. The suggestion of demolishing the old building was abandoned as it aroused such violent protest among citizens. The old building survived to become, in time, the property of the city of Cambridge. Renovated, it is now known as "The Galt Place" and houses an active commercial art gallery, Reid Galleries, which includes the most comprehensive wildlife collections in Ontario.

The building's style is an early adaptation of the Richardsonian-Romanesque style, which is suggested by the round arches over the entrance, the massive coarsely-textured stone work, and the picturesque roofline. It is the work of Thomas Fuller who also designed the central block of the old Parliament Buildings in Ottawa which were destroyed by fire in 1916.

It shows great variety in its windows, arches, cornices and carvings, interesting details of which will be illustrated in Heritage Cambridge's forthcoming book on stone architecture in the region.

BRANT COUNTY

Activities of the Branch got into full swing after the annual meeting of 18 October, 1977, when Audrey Scott became President, Don Pettitt was elected Vice-President, Margaret Chandler, Secretary, and Brenda Malvern, Treasurer. John Starkey is the representative to ACO Council.

ACO President Peter Stokes spoke to a meeting of the Branch, also open to the public, on 21 November giving an introduction to the joys and sorrows of preservation ending with the illustration of Toronto's split personality represented by a nose-on view of the Flatiron (Gooderham Building at Front and Wellington).

Local effort to preserve downtown Brantford

has been a particular interest of the Branch lately with a press release sent to the Brantford Expositor on 30 November, and other documented information, clippings and letters on the subject now being collated. A proposal has been presented recently for redevelopment of the long-vacant Market Square (site of the old City Hall) and part of the block on the north side of Dalhousie Street, which contains some buildings of merit, facing it. These crucial areas at the heart of the pleasantly scaled downtown core are of the utmost concern for they could be the seed of future success in the preservation of Brantford's architectural character, and may be the long-awaited bloom to this small city. (The excellent example of Victoria Square, but a block behind, with its courthouse, churches, library and fine commercial buildings is still an inspiration for other communities). The Advisory Board of ACO, represented by Messrs. Walker, Chapman and Stokes visited Brantford, at the request of the Brant County Branch, on 8 February to view and comment on the situation related to renewal proposals: its response is expected shortly.

John Starkey, Chairman of LACAC, handed to the February ACO Council meeting an extract from the January '78 issue of *Horizon* entitled **Recycling the City**. This is an excellent and stimulating article, well worth reading and re-reading, and should set even jaded imaginations going as well as to give enthusiasts a fillip.

A fascinating book on the local scene, with architectural and historical highlights, is about to be published. Watch for **The Brantford Sampler**.



LONDON REGION

London Cottage Architecture - 1840-1900

This exhibit was held at the Centennial Museum on Oct. 10 - Nov. 20. The project, funded by Wintario and Young Canada Works grants, is comprised of over three hundred photographs of London cottages. The photography was done by Leslie Ste. Marie, the research by Donna Jean James and Katie Revinton, and the drawings by Garry Van Patter. The secretaries were Janice Johnson and Liza Morchat and the Project Originator was Walter Lake.

The project was designed to meet the following aims:

- 1) To produce a written and pictorial catalogue of 300 representative cottages that exist in

London, Ontario, at the present time;

- 2) To collect hard data on these cottages, that will complement the surveys which have, until now, concentrated on the larger municipal Victorian and Edwardian structures;

- 3) To define the difference between (a) workingman's temporary housing, and (b) the substantial cottages built for people of means and established craftsmen;

- 4) To create an investigative model that other communities can use to research their own indigenous architecture;

- 5) To provide an interest within the average person in his local heritage architecture, especially architecture that he can feel comfortable visiting, or more importantly, **living in**;

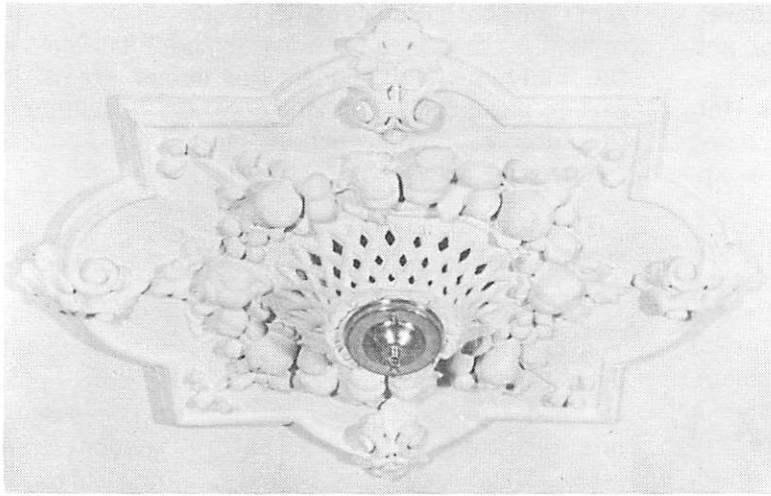
- 6) To provide local cottage owners with an indication of the original size and shape of their home, an explanation of how to research it, and information on how to restore it to an approximation of its original state;

- 7) To provide top quality photographs and illustrations that will enlighten and entertain, but still be of value to future researchers.

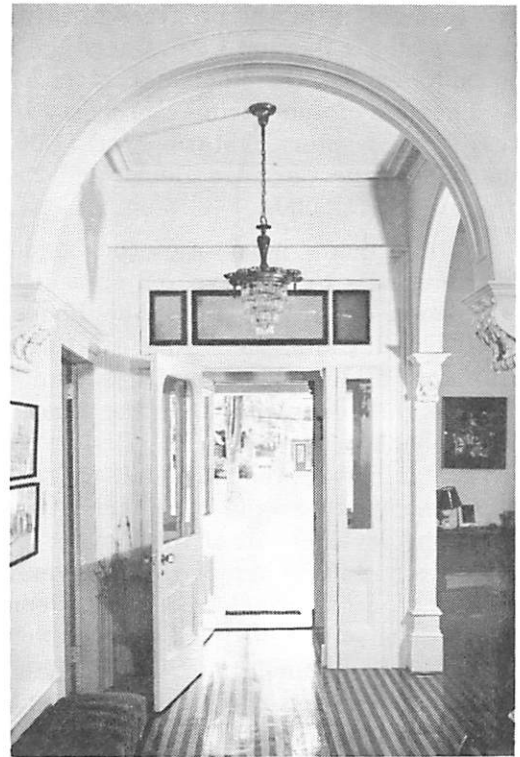
The Anglo-French word "cottage" which appears in Chaucer's and other Middle English writing, gave us our historical meaning; that is, "a small humble dwelling house". These buildings had traditionally been thought of as labourer or farm worker houses. Bacon describes Yeomen as the middle men between the cottagers and the gentlemen. By 1765 cottage is used to describe a small country or suburban residence. The association of these cottages with the lower socioeconomic classes is well documented until the 1790's. It is at this time that the gentry became concerned with the picturesque and the romantic. After 1810 it became fashionable for people of means to adopt this romantic style of life.

In the colonies the cottage had merged with the bungalow which originated in India. This four-square plan, with veranda all around, had been spread by the East India Company merchants and the Indian army officers during the late 1700's. By the beginning of the 1800's, the bungalow-cottage was well established in Australia and after the Napoleonic wars, the retired (half-pay) military officers were building these "British Empire cottages" in Ontario (1830).

The London Cottage Architecture exhibit is compact and can travel. If your branch is interested in using it, we suggest you contact the London Region Branch.



Plaster ceiling medallion of a London cottage.



Doorway of the home of Mrs. M. B. McGugan,
360 Central Avenue, Woodfield, London, Ontario.
Mrs. McGugan is an A.C.O. member.



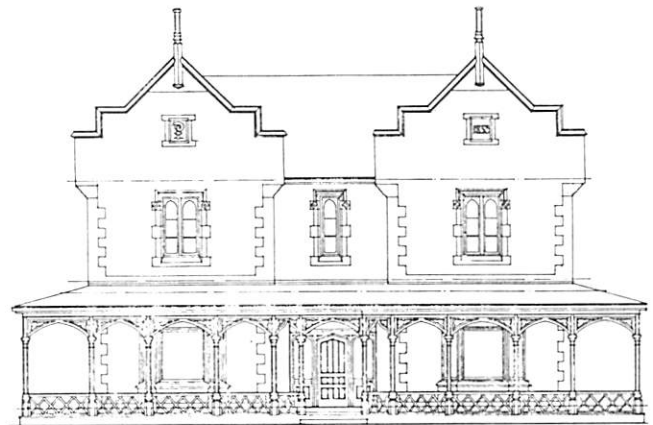
477 Waterloo Street, Woodfield, London, Ontario
part of law offices of Siskind, Cromarty.

A Double Feature:

Walking Tours Memorabilia; The London History Centre

The November meeting of the London Region Branch featured reminiscences of four walking tours: "Victorian Fancies", "Edwardian Echoes", "Woodfield Rambles", and "The Talbot Tour", with slides and commentaries by members.

A model of "Grosvenor Lodge" (1853), recently acquired by the London Public Library and Art Museum, was on display with a museum staff member present to explain the plans and



FRONT ELEVATION GROSVENOR LODGE, 1853
Architect, Samuel Peters, Jr.
Line Drawing by Nolan & Glover, Architects, 1977

give an account of the progress toward the development of the Samuel Peters heritage house, and outbuildings, as the London History Centre.

The sale of the heritage property by the University of Western Ontario (for \$1.00) included the Lodge, the Carriage House and 2.8 acres appraised at \$152,000.

"The primary purpose of the London Historical Museum is to preserve and present the history of London and its Region. The London History Centre will complement the existing Historical Museums, Eldon House and Centennial Museum. Each is unique, while together they provide a comprehensive service." The History Centre will contain exhibition rooms, and space for reference, research, meetings and other activities.

In the development of the Centre, of necessity, some walls will be removed; however, in careful preservation tradition, woodwork, doors and details will be catalogued and stored. No structural changes will be made, nor will anything be done that cannot be returned to the original.

Amongst displays of glass, textiles, costumes, lighting artifacts, exhibits of leisure-time devices and many other things will be included: two displays relating to the largest employment groups for women in the 19th century, dressmaking and domestic service, and one to mourning — an omnipresent facet of 19th century life.

The development of the Carriage House for the Museum workshop, display preparation and exhibition storage was initiated in the fall of 1977; work on Grosvenor Lodge will be commenced in the fall of 1978.

The London Region Branch contributed \$500 to the project. This, as with other private funds, will be matched by the Province.

Book Sale Success Story

The three day sale of discarded books from the London Public Library shelves was successful to the tune of \$6,000. — half of which will be used for the new book purchases by the library, and half by the museums toward the London History Centre.

From 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Centennial Museum, throngs of people had the chance and pleasure of adding to their own libraries without spending very much: a large shopping bag full of books for \$5.00.

Richmond Row

Richmond Street is one of London's traffic arteries. Now its delightful atmosphere and the increasing number of appealing shops and restau-

rants on both sides of "The Row" herald the revival of the older sections of this city. Most of the buildings that house the shops are of an earlier period so that conservation is adding to the interest and economic success of London's commercial areas.

Mr. Jack Diamond Visits London in November

On one of the side streets off Richmond, older houses have been preserved with advice by Mr. Jack Diamond, thus adding to "The Row" and a catalyst to other preservation of this particular late 19th and early 20th century London streetscape. Members of the Urban League, University students, and many other citizens heard Mr. Diamond in several lectures that had been arranged, in part, by the League. A lawyer for a developer, at the end of the meeting, and obviously inspired by the prospects of conservation, promised to apprise his client of the possibilities. So we progress!

Mr. Diamond, while showing slides of the handsome buildings recycled by his firm, discussed costs, practicability, density and environmental effects and disarmed, with facts and figures, those who argue for renewal and against preservation.

His philosophy related to people's comforts and needs — both social and physical; his designs reflect this. Mr. Diamond is indeed an informed and heartening speaker exemplary in his achievements in and stimulation of conservation.

Out of the twenty or so members of the City Council of London who were invited to the meeting, only one, reputedly, was present. This is indeed disturbing considering what inspiration the others missed.

Perhaps it should be a Branch project to have available for each elected municipal official a copy of all publications relevant to preservation including the Ontario Heritage Act (Bill 176).

All are available from:

The Publication Centre
Ministry of Government Services
3B-7 Macdonald Block
Queen's Park
Toronto Ontario M7A 1N8

January meeting welcomes representatives from the Ontario Heritage Foundation

Another double feature programme brought Mrs. Catharine Smale, Board member and Mr. George Kapelos, of the staff of the Ontario Herit-

age Foundation to London.

Mr. Diamond, in his recent talk, had referred to the wider recognition of the value and achievements of citizens' groups, and the unfortunate vacuum where none exists. The two guest speakers at the January meeting, referred often to preservation projects that have been initiated and carried through by the effort of local citizens and groups in Ontario.

Mr. Kapelos, in his encouraging and sympathetic presentation, spoke of the necessity of recognizing that in each community an architectural study must be made by the local people, out of which study will come recommendations for the designation of buildings. His lively and informative commentary was based on province-wide review of both the exteriors and interiors of buildings which have been recognized for their merits.

Mrs. Smale followed Mr. Kapelos with an account of the history of the Foundation, the legislation in its care, recognized as in its beginning stages, and still being modified, of the realization of an ever-increasing number of people aware of our heritage and of the number of LACAC's set up across the Province as a direct result of the Heritage Act. She also illustrated and commented upon two successful conservation projects in Simcoe, the Norfolk County Court House complex on Governor Simcoe Square, now the Simcoe Municipal Offices and Lynnwood, the Greek Revival Duncan Campbell House, circa 1850, designated a National Historic Site in 1973, that has become the Lynnwood Arts Centre. The following excerpt is from the inscription on the plaque mounted outside the house by the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada: "...It achieves dignity through fine proportions and skillful use of classical motifs, rather than from monumentality usually associated with this style. The staircase, interior woodwork, including the seven original fireplaces and mantels, and the decorative plaster ceiling medallions and cornices, are all of exceptional quality."

Mrs. Smale's and Mr. Kapelos' joint presentation was stimulating and encouraging, speaking much of hope for conservation in Ontario and its pursuit with both citizens and government participating.

HURON COUNTY

Exhibition grant

The Huron County Branch has received a grant of \$352.80 from the Ontario Heritage Foundation to compile a photographic survey of

all phases of the restoration of the Town Hall in Exeter. The contents of the survey will be used to mount an exhibition and also as a record for deposit with the Ontario Archives.

Publication — Memories of Goderich

The branch secretary, Dorothy Wallace, and a small able team have compiled a fifty page book entitled "**Memories of Goderich**". This profusely illustrated work accompanied by exhaustive historical notes came off the press and on to the stands at the beginning of December. This book retails at \$21.95. The sponsors of the book were the Jubilee 3 Committee which championed the celebrations of Goderich's 150th birthday. To order, write Dorothy Wallace, 35 Wellington St. South, Goderich. (We understand these are temporarily out of stock).

Early Building in Colborne and Goderich Townships

A small forty page book of photographs and text depicting the early building in two rural townships adjacent to the town of Goderich has been published by Hurons County Branch President, Nick Hill. Houses, churches, bridges, hotels, and halls are included. The book retails for \$3.00 and may be obtained by writing Nick Hill, 58 Elgin Ave. E., Goderich.

Winter Lecture Series

Three speakers are being asked to address the Huron County Branch this winter. They are Peter Stokes, Restoration Architect, Christopher Borgal, Architect and partner with Nick Hill in Goderich, and C. Man, Planner from Guelph. This will be the third winter of such a series which is well attended and very enjoyable.

Goderich Square Conservation District Plan

The first public meetings and presentations of an Heritage Conservation District Plan for the octagonal Square Business Area in Goderich was held early in January.

Clinton Town Hall

Clinton Town Council is considering carrying out a feasibility study with the view to restoration of their historic town hall on Main Street.

Blyth Historic Building Study

The village of Blyth is undertaking a study of their historic building stock, the contents of



formerly C. N. Station

which are to be included in their local official Plan and Zoning By-law.

Future Projects

With a request by the ACO executive, to the branches to identify their future projects over the next two years, the following projects were considered at the Huron County Branch annual meeting on December 7:

1. Photographic Survey of the surviving board and batten, clapboard, and wood-sided buildings still surviving in the County.
2. A publication entitled "How to Design An Addition to Your Historic Home".
3. Photographic Survey of "Gingerbread".

NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST

from other associations

HERITAGE OTTAWA

Seminars

Two interesting seminars were held in November at Algonquin College, namely 'Techniques of identifying, conserving, and restoring the original paint finishes in heritage buildings', and 'Paint, wallpaper and other decorative finishes used in heritage buildings from the early nineteenth century to the early twentieth century.'

First Ottawa Easement

The Ontario Heritage Foundation has registered an easement on a Francis Sullivan designed house at 166 Huron Street, Ottawa. In an exclusive interview with the Heritage Ottawa Newsletter, Larry T. Ryan, Director, Trust Branch, Heritage Conservation Division, Ministry of Culture and Recreation, explained that the easement, the first in Ottawa to be acquired by the Foundation, will protect the exterior design of the

house from any changes without the prior approval of the Foundation. In return, the owner will receive a \$7,500 grant to assist with the very costly job of preserving and renewing the fabric of the house.

Built in 1914-15 for Edward P. Connors, the house is described by H. Allen Brooks in *The Prairie School* as the most characteristic example of Sullivan's "bold, vigorous style" which combines aspects of the Victorian Gothic of Ontario and the non-historical horizontality of Frank Lloyd Wright for and with whom Sullivan worked.

APT Conference

The Association for Preservation Technology will be holding its annual meeting in Ottawa, September 18-23, and Heritage Ottawa is acting as the host group for the event. While September may seem in the far-distant future, several committees are already hard at work making plans and preparations for the 400 delegates. This is the 10th anniversary of the founding of APT.

PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Old South Monaghan School

A grant of \$10,000 was awarded to Century Village, Lang, last November through the Capital Assistance Programme of the National Museums of Canada upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees and the approval of the Secretary of State. This grant is to be applied towards the costs involved in moving the "Old South Monaghan School" and restoring it on its new site between the Keene Inn and the Fitzpatrick House in Century Village. It is evidently the first time that money from this programme has been granted for the moving of a building. The school which was threatened with demolition has been donated by the South Monaghan Township Council and will become the Printing Shop in Century Village. Historically it is correct to use an adapted building as a print shop; they almost always did. In the fall of 1973, Don Mullan who had recently purchased the Old Norwood Register, donated all the early printing equipment to Century Village. These pieces along with other donations will almost completely furnish this 23' x 30' building. However, we are still looking for a flatbed Washington press. Architecturally this is a delightful building with its simple classic lines and double-hung sash windows. The original wainscotting is in good condition and traces of original paint remain on the exterior clapboard.

Hutchison House

Members and friends toured the Hutchison House with delight, admiring the furnishings assembled for the Christmas Party by Anne Heideman and her furnishings committee, exclaiming over the crackling fires, the mantels trimmed with cedar boughs and clusters of high bush cranberries, and the candles flickering in brass and pewter holders. Bowls of apples and huge rounds of cheese, plates of shortbreads and Christmas cake and cookies provided accompaniment to the tea served in the afternoon, and the steaming cups of mulled cider, coffee, or chilled wine at the evening gathering.

This was the second annual Hutchison House Christmas Party, a warm and congenial affair convened by Betty Farquharson, and reflecting the spirit of our newly-restored historic house.

Furnishing of the house is now being carried out, and it is hoped that the majority of the furnishings required will be in place for the scheduled official opening on the 24th of May.

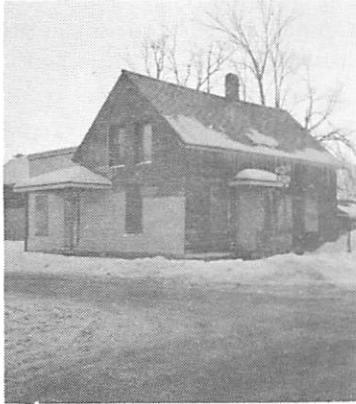
\$9,000 grant

At the last meeting, Mr. Charles Huffman, President of the Society, opened the meeting with a report that the City had just announced a grant of \$9,000 to Hutchison House to underwrite the first year of operation.

AROUND AND ABOUT: HAPPENINGS IN ONTARIO

AMHERSTBURG

The Neighbourhood Improvement Programme (NIP) and Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Programme (RRAP) are well under way in this rather special community with decidedly mixed results as you can see by recent photographs.



THE GIBB HOUSE P.J.S. Photo 1978

The Amherstburg Historic Sites Association, under whose auspices the preservation of the Gibb House is being assured, undertook a serious study of the possibilities for its rehabilitation. On the other hand another study to promote exterior restoration of a worthy, though simple, local building, the Jimmerfield House, was not followed through. The results, less than fortunate, may not be irreversible and at least the record is available.

Meanwhile as "improvement" continues and attempts to arrest decay gather momentum ironically the "rot" sets in. Which is to say — if that NIP is in the air, beware of the RRAP that follows.



"Improvement" with a bang: obviously symmetry is on the way out, and the old house too. PJS Photo 1978

AYLMER

Further word from the newly constituted organization, Heritage Aylmer, (now with a membership of over 60 including its executive) indicates that the feasibility study for the preservation of the old Town Hall and Opera House is underway and is to be presented to Town Council in its first stage on 30th April. The study is under the able direction of Carlos Ventin, Architect, of Simcoe, noted for his excellent work in converting the old Norfolk County Courthouse into municipal offices.

Heritage Aylmer is busy raising funds to help underwrite the cost of the study, also being sponsored by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and has publicity and various events of interest planned. Any contributions would be appreciated (and a receipt for your donation will be forwarded

for income tax purposes) to Heritage Aylmer, c/o Mr. Ken Carson, Treasurer, 174 Rutherford Avenue, Aylmer, Ontario.

BARRIE

The old Firehall still stands and Wharfside Properties (The Flatiron, St. Lawrence Hotel and Torville Terrace in Port Hope) entered a proposal for its adaptation and continued use and has until 1 April, 1978, to come up with a firm commitment for tenancy and other pertinent information on the scheme.

Work already undertaken in schemes to make the building into a multi-purpose downtown community centre has met with opposition from the City Council. This opposition continues despite favourable comment on the proposal in the recent report of A. J. Diamond Associates which also considered costs of the project to be realistic. There is also support in Council for the original proposal but the majority rules, very slimly, prompting one local supporter to suggest that designated buildings should not be put in jeopardy of demolition by less than a two thirds vote.

COBOURG

Phase 2 of the preservation of Victoria Hall is finished, the building now occupied by the Town of Cobourg, The Art Gallery of Cobourg, and for court purposes by the Ministry of the Attorney General. The courtroom is again in use with its well-known trompe-l'oeil painting of the coat of arms of 1859 by J. Moser and restored recently by Gene Butt.

Funds for Phase 3 are now being sought to carry out the final restoration of the magnificent two-storey Concert Room with its chiaroscuro painting and other spaces on the second floor of the building. Your contributions (for which a receipt will be forwarded) will be gratefully received by the Society for the Restoration of Victoria Hall, 213 Second Street, Cobourg, Ont. K9A 2M2.

GUELPH

Herewith an illustration of the plaque presented to commemorate recent Heritage Awards.



GUELPH HERITAGE AWARD PLAQUE

by Frances Gage

(Photo courtesy Judith M. Nasby, Curator of Art,
University of Guelph)

NAPANEE

The old Post Office, a prominent landmark on the edge of the business area is partly used by the Town Police Department. A study for its rehabilitation and conversion was being considered with Wilfred Sorensen, Architect of Kingston, in charge. Mr. Sorensen already has a number of successful preservation projects to his credit, among these the conversion of the old jail in Napanee to a museum, the Napanee Town Hall, Victoria and Grey Trust in Kingston and, with architect Lily Inglis, the new Kingston Public Library incorporating the old Archbishop's Palace. Mr. Sorensen lives in a house by William Coverdale just opposite Bellevue.

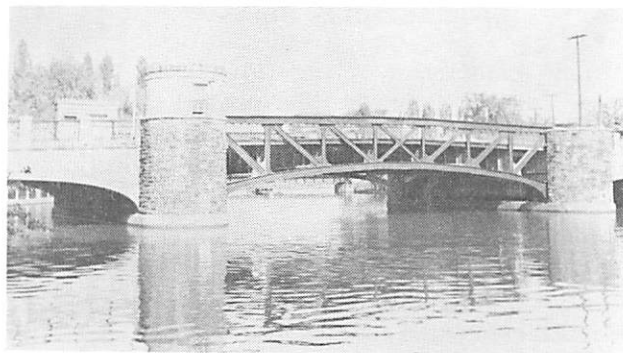
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

The Heritage Committee of the Council of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, (successor to a less-than-successful LACAC which, recommending thirteen buildings for designation in the old Town of Niagara area, failed over a year ago) has now met opposition within Council for the designation of a single building, the old Courthouse and Town Hall, 1847, by architect William Thomas. So it cannot be numbers alone which are unlucky.

Ontario's most historic architecturally interesting small town is as vulnerable as ever, waiting as many of its citizens hope, to recede into the doldrums, its ultimate preservative.

OTTAWA

Pretoria Avenue Bridge (1915-17) over the Rideau Canal in central Ottawa is being considered for replacement by a lift bridge of similar appearance. A high level bridge design was not favoured, and a lift structure of comparable detail



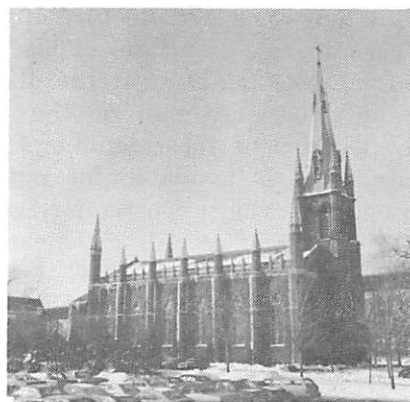
PRETORIA AVENUE BRIDGE
View from the South or "upcanal" side

Photo courtesy C. C. Parker &
Associates Limited

to the early 20th century version was insisted upon. But a bridge which sometimes sticks in the uplifted position obviously needs attention and reconstruction with a modified mechanism is now being studied by C. C. Parker and Associates Limited, Consulting Engineers, with assistance by a consultant on restoration aspects of the work.

WINDSOR

Assumption Church (1835-45) the design by Robert Elliott of Detroit, is a striking and early example of the Gothic Revival in North America. This brick church is a simple though powerful building with a striking silhouette, its strong octagonal buttresses crowned by pinnacles reflecting, in miniature, the slightly later steeple to the western tower. The interior is of handsome proportions with aisles to the nave, but with blind clerestory. The apsidal chancel was added in 1870. Other features of the interior include the pulpit by the woodcarver Frerot and executed in 1793 for the earlier church on the site.



ASSUMPTION CHURCH, WINDSOR

PJS Photo February 1978

An assessment of Assumption Church and report by Arthur Wallace has prompted further study towards its preservation and enhancement and to consider assistance from public as well as private sources. Investigation of the possibilities is now underway.

AND SO IT BEGAN

The following, written in 1932, is the original proposal of those few people, not only interested in preserving our heritage but in doing something about it. We feel sure that many of our readers will be fascinated in reading it and the lists, sent to ACORN by one of those interested people, Dr. Eric Arthur.

PROPOSAL

IT is proposed to organize in Ontario a Society with the object of preserving the best existing examples of the early architecture of the Province, and of protecting its places of natural beauty.

In England, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty, have preserved for posterity many fine old buildings and beautiful natural sites, of which Haddon Hall, in Derbyshire, Runnymede, where Magna Carta was signed, and Stonehenge, on Salisbury Plain, are examples. Organizations with similar objects exist in other parts of the Empire. In South Africa, the National Society has preserved a large number of interesting buildings that date from the earliest period of white settlement. In Quebec, the Historic Monuments Commission devotes itself primarily to the old churches and houses in that Province, many of which are re-

corded in the Commission's beautifully illustrated and already rare publications. In Ontario, organizations such as the U.E. Loyalists Association, and some of the local societies and Women's Institutes, are performing valuable public service in making better known and in some instances preserving places of historical interest in their several localities. But the work of these bodies is necessarily limited to their special historical interests or their territorial associations, and Ontario, as a whole, still lacks a comprehensive organization concerned primarily with the preservation of the early architecture of the Province, and the protection of its places of natural beauty.

The old buildings of Ontario not only possess a definite character of their own, but display a high level of intrinsic architectural merit. Indeed they include examples which, in artistic interest, are not surpassed even in the older settled Provinces. Every year one or more of these buildings is lost by demolition or fire, or marred by alteration or decay, and unless some determined effort at preservation is instituted, future generations will lose what may be properly described as a fine artistic heritage.

During the last five years more than two hundred of these buildings, representing the best remaining specimens throughout the Province, have been photographed and in some instances

measured and drawn in detail by Professor E. R. Arthur of the School of Architecture of the University of Toronto, and associates of his, who are placing this valuable material at the disposal of the proposed Society. A map of the Province showing the location of these buildings has also been prepared and is available for publication.

The first aim of the proposed Society will be to complete the work of recording the early buildings in the Province, and to make them better known, for it is thought that when their interest for posterity has been brought to the attention of their present owners and the public, the first step towards their preservation will have been accomplished. Ultimately, public spirited citizens may, as in the case of similar organizations elsewhere, desire to make gifts or legacies for the acquisition of buildings and lands which it will be the proposed Society's object to preserve. These may include sites of natural beauty, which should be preserved from defacement or destruction, and maintained with their natural features unimpaired. It is thought that with the co-operation of the Provincial authorities, of the local societies mentioned, and of regional committees of the members of the proposed Society, its range of usefulness can be steadily increased. It is, moreover, believed that the objects of the proposed Society will not only interest the people of the Province, but will also justify the support of the Provincial Government, particularly as a means of increasing the interest of the better type of tourists in the Province.

The annexed list of persons to whom this circular is being sent is not final, and it is hoped in time to extend the list to include other representative citizens in every part of the Province who may be interested in the objects of the proposed Society. All charges in connection with its organization have been provided for, and it is not proposed to make any financial demands on any persons who may become members, except an annual fee of \$2.00. If you are willing to become a charter member of the proposed Society, the Committee that has been formed for the purpose of securing its incorporation will be glad to have you sign and return the enclosed authorization.

PERSONS TO WHOM THIS CIRCULAR IS BEING SENT

Administrator of Ontario—Rt. Hon. Sir William Mulock,
K.C.M.G.

Alexandria —Rt. Rev. Felix Couturier.

Ancaster —J. Norman Dalley, Esq.
Mrs. Allan V. Young.

Arnprior	—Dan McLachlin, Esq.
Barrie	—W. A. Boys, Esq., K.C.
Belleville	—Mrs. A. E. MacColl. W. C. Mikel, Esq., K.C. W. N. Ponton, Esq., K.C.
Bobcaygeon	—Mossom Boyd, Esq.
Brantford	—Hon. H. Cockshutt.
Brockville	—Mrs. W. S. Comstock. George T. Fulford, Esq. H. R. Morgan, Esq.
Cobourg	—David C. Dick, Esq. W. E. Guilett, Esq.
Erindale	—W. R. P. Parker, Esq., K.C.
Galt	—R. O. McCullough, Esq.
Gananoque	—J. D. Peck, Esq.
Guelph	—Lieut. Col. George A. Drew, V.D.
Hamilton	—H. G. Barton, Esq. His Honour Judge Evans. C. W. G. Gibson, Esq. L. B. Husband, Esq. T. B. McQuesten, Esq. Hon. S. C. Mewburn, K.C., C.M.G. S. W. C. Scott, Esq.
Hawkesbury	—J. W. Holtby, Esq.
Kemptville	—Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, K.C.
Kingston	—Colin Drever, Esq. W. Hamilton Fyfe, Esq. Lieut. Gen. Sir Archibald C. Macdonell, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O. D. A. McArthur, Esq., F.R.S.C. Mrs. Thomas McGinnis. Ivo Martin, Esq.
Kitchener	—Bernal Jones, Esq. D. N. Panabaker, Esq.
Lancaster	—Mrs. Fraser.
London	—Hume Cronyn, Esq. Fred Landon, Esq. Rt. Rev. C. A. Seager.
Midland	—Hon. W. Finlayson, K.C., M.P.P. Wilfred Smith, Esq.
Milton	—Archer Baldwin, Esq.
Napanee	—W. S. Herrington, Esq., K.C., F.R.S.C.
Niagara Falls	—Claude A. Findlay, Esq.
Niagara-on-the-Lake	—Miss Catherine Creed. Miss Jane Elliott. Rev. C. H. E. Smith.
Orillia	—Stephen Leacock, Esq., F.R.S.C.
Oshawa	—W. E. N. Sinclair, Esq., K.C., M.P.P.
Ottawa	—A. D. Cartwright, Esq. A. G. Doughty, Esq., C.M.G., F.R.S.C. Rt. Hon. L. P. Duff.

Mrs. A. W. Fleck.
 Ernest Green, Esq.
 Hon. W. D. Herridge, K.C., D.S.O., M.C.
 Douglas Leechman, Esq.
 Lieut. Col. C. P. Meredith.
 P. D. Ross, Esq.
 H. S. Southam, Esq.
 Mrs. J. B. Simpson.
 Graham Spry, Esq.
 Hon. Cairine Wilson.

Perth —Archibald Campbell, Esq.
 Allan Code, Esq.
 Cyril Inderwick, Esq.

Peterborough —Lieut. Col. C. H. Ackerman.
 His Honour Judge Huycke.
 Gordon Mathews, Esq.

Pickering —M. C. Boswell, Esq.

Picton —Fred Healey, Esq.
 Brig. Gen. B. R. Hepburn, C.M.G.

Port Arthur —Maj. Gen. D. M. Hogarth, C.B., C.M.G.
 D.S.O.

Port Credit —Anthony Adamson, Esq.

Port Hope —V. B. Blake, Esq.
 J. A. V. Fraser, Esq.
 Hon. C. V. Massey.
 Mrs. Hugh Wotherspoon
 G. M. Wrong, Esq., F.R.S.C.

Prescott —John L. Reid, Esq.

Preston —A. W. N. Clare, Esq.

Roches Point —R. A. Laidlaw, Esq.

Sault Ste.
 Marie —J. W. Curran, Esq.

St. Thomas —J. H. Coyne, Esq., F.R.S.C.
 Fred Green, Esq.

Shanty Bay —Miss K. O'Brien.

Simcoe —Dr. W. A. McIntosh.

Thornhill —Fred Haines, Esq., A.R.C.A.

Toronto —Eric N. Armour, Esq., K.C.
 C. H. A. Armstrong, Esq., K.C.
 E. R. Arthur, Esq., A.R.I.B.A.
 Martin Baldwin, Esq.
 C. S. Band, Esq.
 Dr. F. G. Banting.
 S. G. Bennett, Esq.
 Col. Arthur L. Bishop.
 E. H. Blake, Esq.
 George H. Cassels, Esq., K.C.
 W. H. Cawthra, Esq.
 Mrs. G. K. Cawthra-Elliott.
 Hector Charlesworth, Esq.
 Gregory Clark, Esq.
 Hon. H. J. Cody.
 Mrs. D. A. Dunlap.
 Merrill Denison, Esq.
 Hugh Eayrs, Esq.
 Pelham Edgar, Esq., F.R.S.C.
 George H. Gooderham, Esq.

W. L. Grant, Esq., F.R.S.C.
 Howard B. Grubb, Esq.
 M. O. Hammond, Esq.
 Mrs. Margaret Howard.
 Aemilius Jarvis, Esq.
 W. R. Johnston, Esq.
 Mrs. J. Kilgour.
 Hon. A. C. Kingstone.
 Hon. F. R. Latchford.
 Hugh H. Langton, Esq.
 G. R. Larkin, Esq.
 Ivor Lewis, Esq.
 George H. Locke, Esq.
 John M. Lyle, Esq., R.C.A.
 J. M. Macdonnell, Esq.
 C. S. MacInnes, Esq., K.C., C.M.G.
 Major V. Maclean-Howard.
 A. Montye Macrae, Esq.
 A. S. Mathers, Esq., A.R.C.A.
 J. V. McAree, Esq.
 J. Stanley McLean, Esq.
 J. McE. Murray, Esq.
 J. B. O'Brian, Esq., K.C.
 F. Gordon Osler, Esq.
 Hon. W. R. Riddell, F.R.S.C.
 Miss C. Roberts.
 Hon. Hugh E. Rose.
 F. D. L. Smith, Esq.
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The Minister Speaks of Grant Assistance to Heritage Buildings in Religious Use

At St. Catharines, Ontario, the Hon. Robert Welch, Minister of Culture and Recreation, on the occasion of the centenary of St. Thomas' Church, 22 October, 1977, spoke of the possibilities of financial assistance, through the Ontario Heritage Foundation and Wintario, to ensure the conservation of heritage buildings in religious use. Mr. Welch referred to the study on the subject commissioned from Dr. Harold Kalman of Ottawa speaking of the great help this had been in the background for considering policies in this new aspect of preservation. The report had been submitted to concerned parties including the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the Minister acknowledged the help he had received in developing the idea further. In the first consideration it was apparent that churches were a significant heritage resource, often preserved at considerable effort and cost by various groups in the community. This had been recognized by the Foundation which clearly considered that applications for financial assistance should be considered, each on its own merit, especially as the concern for the retention of our architectural heritage grows.

However, as should be expected, the development of the policy will depend on community initiative and the granting of assistance will be accompanied by certain conditions to ensure that this is in the best interests of the community at large. So that it is suggested first that assistance will be considered if a municipal council determines which buildings are of heritage significance and that these are worthy of, and to be subject to, designation under the Ontario Heritage Act. There is, however, a note that the Foundation could make a direct assessment.

Assistance will relate to the conservation of a heritage building's significance, and it is to be the Foundation's role to determine what this should include as compared to parts of the proposal of a private religious nature. Yet the two must be considered jointly for mutual furthering of interests and protection of heritage values. The suggestion was made that such protection could be afforded by the Foundation obtaining an easement, a device it has already had considerable experience with in other situations. Mr. Welch stressed, however, that although the assistance programme might begin with buildings of provincial significance, each easement agreement should fit the particular project involved.

The Minister concluded with thanks to all those who had participated in providing help and advice on this complex subject, with special grati-

tude "to the numerous religious organizations in Ontario, which despite severe pressures on occasion, have been so remarkably successful in preserving so many heritage structures, the loss of which would have represented irreparable damage to our cultural heritage." It was thought that this pioneer effort in preservation would achieve success as an example for other authorities in the field.

(Ed. Note: This new policy, we understand, is now being explored with at least one pilot project. It will always be difficult to separate completely those items contributing to the conservation of a building from those dealing with the private religious aspects of its continuing use, but this will be the responsibility of the Ontario Heritage Foundation to sort out. We hate to think of re-criminations following a complete unwillingness to support or inability to undertake re-wiring when a squirrel provides the fuse: no doubt reason will prevail.)

FUND RAISING BEGINS

The 1978 Fund Raising Campaign is now underway. Funds are being sought to continue the ACO activities of general benefit and interest such as ACORN and to help underwrite the expenses of the re-activated Advisory Board. It is hoped that contributions will enable ACO to explore the building heritage of Ontario communities further by including pictorial coverage in ACORN.

MARGINALIA

Recycled buildings win design awards

It is interesting to note that three of the design awards of the Ontario Association of Architects were given for recycled buildings. Gordon S. Ridgely, of Hamilton Ridgely and Bennett received a plaque for the Millcroft Inn at Alton. Carlos Ventin of Simcoe received one for the Simcoe Municipal Building, a conversion of the former Norfolk County Courthouse. A. J. Capling, chief architect for the National Capital Commission, received an award for the Sussex Drive Re-development Project in Ottawa.

Coade Stone

Fascinating articles have recently appeared on this artificial stone (The Connoisseur, January 1978) and its imitations (County Life, 10 November, 1977) both written by Alison Kelly and each well illustrated. The term "stone" is somewhat of

a misnomer since the material was a fired ceramic product of extraordinary durability. Nelson's statue in Montreal is a Coade stone replica erected in 1809, thirty-three years before the famous statue in London's Trafalgar Square. The material was often less expensive than comparable carved ornament, and an extensive catalogue of stock items from keystones to urns and other architectural devices as well as figures was available in the late 18th century.

Satanic or Sublime?

In an excellent article in *Country Life*, January 5, 1978, by Marcus Binney, the future of the Yorkshire textile mills is explored. The plight of these often magnificent industrial complexes is indeed a great concern as they fall into disuse from changing times, and woollen manufacturing declines. Their siting, often picturesque, and their dominance of a long-established townscape supreme, their loss can often be a disastrous change. As the clatter of the weaving shed is silenced and the sun's rays pierce the eerie gloom of these great industrial halls there must be some nostalgia, perhaps a certain glory in that past, to the people of West Yorkshire.

So too is the empty shell of the great water-side mill at Campbellford, formerly processing materials for the carpet trade. Picturesque, a landmark of the village, to lose it would indeed create a ghastly hole in the centre. Any other possibilities? What about yet another of our small convention centres? For this is on the Trent-Severn waterway, the mill on the waterfront, the building with lots of space.

The Meaning of Conservation Areas

In an article on Sherborne, Dorset, England, in *Country Life* (September 29, 1977) Nicholas Cooper notes the real meaning of a conservation area in an historic town.

—"On the other hand, still within the Conservation Area, in Hound Street, is a building that gives one cause for hope. This is the Public Library and Digby Hall, completed some seven years ago and in an entirely modern idiom. It employs local stone for the lower parts of external walls, but makes no other concessions to local traditions that could not provide relevant models for an efficient modern library. Its building within the Conservation Area was an act of far-sightedness on the part of the County Council, and showed real understanding of the meaning of conservation areas — that

they provide opportunity for enhancement rather than excuses for sterilisation.

One must hope that those who build in Sherborne will continue not merely to respect its present character but to recognise that for a town to remain static is for it slowly to die: that history is continuous, and that Sherborne will have a future as well as a past."

Old Niagara take special note, and Port Hope and Amherstburg, among many others, please heed.

An Oast or Two

A recent article in Toronto's *Globe and Mail* (25 January, 1978) describes in some detail, under the heading of 'House leaps three centuries and an ocean' and a subtitle 'Six baths, ballroom', a quite strange and very expensive re-creation in the fashionable Bridle Path area of North York (now sometimes called Willowdale, the area mentioned once a suburb of York Mills). Well after seeing pictures of this apparition complete with real (live?) English oak beamery, tile roofs, a couple of Kentish oasts, chimney pots and what appeared to be prefabricated "Tudorbethan" windows (far too perfect to be the real McCoy) being installed with the help of an electric chain saw, we do wonder what Canada and this topsyturvy world are coming to. Is this to be our future heritage or will sweet reason and sensibility prevail? SOS Osbert Lancaster!

A recent advertisement (*Country Life*, 22 December, 1977) by the auctioneers, Christie, Manson & Woods Ltd., will bring back memories to many in Canada who saw it on its wartime tours:

"Superb Palladian Town or Country Mansion complete with its contents, TITANIA'S PALACE.

To be sold by order of the Trustees of the Late Mrs. Olive Hodgkinson. Magnificent Edwardian property designed by Sir Nevile Wilkinson, K.C.V.O. and Sir Edward Lutyens, P.R.A. Furnished throughout in a sumptuous style regardless of expense, with painted ceilings, walls and floors with Antique, Medieval, Renaissance and later furniture and works of art.

Comprising: Splendid Entrance Hall, Throne Room, two State Rooms, Chapel and Museum. 5 Bedrooms, 4 domestic reception rooms, nursery and bathroom. Large secluded garden, well stocked with flowers and classical statues.

Over 1,000 square inches.

For sale as one lot by Auction on 10th January at 12 noon.

This valuable property sold for £300,000 or about \$600,000.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Unconventional Builders: "Why on earth would anyone decide to build that?" by Alan Van Dine, published by the J. G. Ferguson Publishing Company, Chicago, 1977. Illustrated.

This is a fascinating, informative and entertaining book about architects and builders and their creations from masterworks of Sir Christopher Wren, through the serene magnificence of the Cathedral at Beauvais (High Gothic) to the excesses of the eccentric Sarah Pardee Winchester, (Designs for the Haunted House). There are many other diverting and instructive essays including nest engineering (The Cuckoo Construction Company) to early American Alternatives to the Log Cabin and the White House (The Trouble with Cabins and Cottages). The text is well written and very enjoyable reading, the various chapters evocatively illustrated.

Rideau Hall: An Illustrated History of Government House, Ottawa, from Victorian Times to the Present Time, by R. H. Hubbard, published by McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal 1977, Illustrated.

Dr. Hubbard should need no introduction to our readers, but it is noted for the record that he has been seconded from his position as Chief Curator of the National Gallery of Canada to Rideau Hall as Cultural Advisor to the Governor General. Dr. Hubbard's close connection with Rideau Hall for many years gives him an excellent background for this study. He weaves the stories of the various holders of the viceregal post and their families who have contributed to the evolution of Government House, its fabric and its furnishings, into the history of the house itself. This social and architectural history of a very important Canadian house, with its over four hundred illustrations, is a fine addition to the literature on our early building.

The Opulent Eye, Late Victorian and Edwardian Taste in Interior Design, by Nicholas Cooper with photographic plates by H. Bedford Lemere, The Architectural Press, London 1976.

Oh, what sumptuousness! The excellent descriptive text of the *Opulent Eye* in the historical

background to the changing tastes in interior design pivoting around the turn of the century. Nicholas Cooper is both clear and entertaining making understanding with such ease out of education. (We have already had the pleasure, in *Marginalia*, of quoting this writer to great effect).

The photographic plates by H. Bedford Lemere, of great quality not only in the original but also in the reproduction, are superb commentaries on the taste of the period under review. The **Opulent Eye** is one of those beautifully turned out classics that is a joy to read and to own.

Old Ontario Houses, by Lois Mackenzie with photographs by Kim Ondaatje, Gage Educational Publishing Ltd., Toronto, 1977.

This book is hampered by poor production and design from the start and certainly does not match up to other Canadian efforts in the specialized or art book field. While the selection of photographs often becomes highly subjective for such a publication, one wonders why so many outstanding and perhaps more stimulating examples on the subject of the old Ontario house were distinctly omitted and some that were included seemed to fall so short of the mark. (The "houses of God" seem an unnecessarily distracting substitute). There may have been a wish to have a view of the general rather than highlight the excesses, but by the same token those counted successes were lost too. There is a thoroughly irritating habit of close cropping of pictures to destroy, in many cases, the three dimensional quality of the buildings. This, coupled with poor colour printing, does not help the total effect. The text is of the conversational type, not without inaccuracies, possibly from unreliable secondary sources or hearsay, and quotations not properly checked, including, as in **Meet Me at the Station** by the same publisher, the odd architectural gaffe that brings a frown. This book may have been written and produced to fulfill a need: we are inclined to think that it has created a need, but sincerely hope it has not spoilt the market.

Harrowsmith: A bimonthly magazine published in Eastern Ontario has fascinating articles, mostly on ecological subjects, but occasionally about historic Canadian communities such as Portrait of A Small Village (being Upper Canada Woodstock, New Brunswick), by Stephen Homer, in the May/June, 1977 issue. Harrowsmith is published by Camden House Publishing, Camden East, Ontario K0K 1J0.

Subscription \$6.00 per year, \$10.00 for 2 years, and well worth it.

American Preservation, A magazine for historic and neighbourhood preservation, published bi-monthly at the Bracy House, 620 East Sixth, Little Rock, Arkansas 72202, U.S.A. (A beautiful magazine, with good articles and excellent colored photographs. Ed.).

COMING EVENTS

22 - 25 May, 1978:

The Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada is holding a conference, in conjunction with the Learned Societies, at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. The Huron County Branch of the ACO has been asked to conduct a tour of sites and buildings in a number of Huron County communities on 24 May, 1978.

24 - 27 August, 1978:

"Conserving Ontario's Main Streets" a conference being sponsored by the Ontario Heritage Foundation at Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario.

Erratum

It has been pointed out by Mrs. C. W. Heidenreich that in ACORN II-3, the Toronto Branch mentioned that Professor C. T. Currelly was credited as the founder of the Royal Ontario Museum. Professor Currelly was the first director of the Museum of Archaeology within the ROM. The founder of the Royal Ontario Museum was Sir Edmund Walker. We are sorry for this mistake.

November 15, 1977

Dear Mr. Stokes:

Thank you for your letter of October 5, 1977, concerning my earlier letter to you regarding Heritage Conservation Districts. I appreciate that you have now returned me to the ship which you feel I had abandoned as a result of my windy enthusiasm — the specific question of studying and planning for a proposed heritage district.

First, it must be stated that The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974 does not require the type of detailed process of study outlines in the enclosed pamphlet, "Guidelines on the Designation of Heritage Conservation Districts". If a municipality feels it has sufficient knowledge of the proposed area it may proceed directly to:

- 1) Amend its Official Plan to include Heritage Conservation Districts
- 2) Pass a by-law, under terms of the Act, to designate a heritage district.

The study is intended to provide the desired depth to the by-law. Part IV of The Act allows for the identification and protection of properties. Part V goes further. It allows, following proper study, for the planning of the future uses of various structures and for changes in use or appearance of existing structures within a district. In addition, the study should address the question of new construction within a district and provide guidelines to owners of vacant properties on what the municipality and its Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee wish to encourage by way of new building design.

Finally, it is very important that a study consider what type of heritage district there should be. In some cases, a "restoration" emphasis would be more logical, but in other instances, possibly most, the stress will be placed on conservation and adaptive use of structures in order to retain the flavour of an area without necessarily undertaking extensive period restoration.

These are the concerns we have and they are, we feel, best studied in a detailed and comprehensive manner before a district is erected. We are not advocating study and planning for their own sakes but rather to ensure that once a municipality has established a heritage district, all the residents and owners will understand what that district is and, we hope, will then work to make it a success. For a community to create a district without truly comprehending its nature, what the aims of that particular district should be, and how those goals ought to be implemented would do the cause of heritage conservation much more harm than waiting a few extra months to study the problems and attempt to identify the solutions.

Yours truly,
Stephen A. Otto,
Executive Director,
Heritage Conservation Division,
Ministry of Culture and Recreation,
Queen's Park, Toronto

**ACO's Address: c/o Association House, 191 College Street,
Toronto, Ontario M5T 1P7 Phone: (416) 979-1111**

**All submissions to ACORN please send to Editor-in-Chief, ACORN,
86 Augusta St., Port Hope, Ontario L1A 1G9**

Many thanks to Mrs. Kathleen Courtney for assistance in typing rough drafts. It is greatly appreciated by the editor.

M.W.G.

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